

procedures and guidelines to implement the Act. It specifies that the Director shall designate "cognizant" Federal agencies, determine criteria for making appropriate charges to Federal programs for the cost of audits, and provide procedures to assure that small firms or firms owned and controlled by disadvantaged individuals have the opportunity to participate in contracts for single audits.

§ 12.14 Policy.

The Single Audit Act requires the following:

(a) State or local governments that receive \$100,000 or more a year in Federal financial assistance shall have an audit made in accordance with this Circular.

(b) State or local governments that receive between \$25,000 and \$100,000 a year have an audit made in accordance with this Circular, or in accordance with Federal laws and regulations governing the programs they participate in.

(c) State or local governments that receive less than \$25,000 a year shall be exempt from compliance with the Act and other Federal audit requirements. These State and local governments shall be governed by audit requirements prescribed by State or local law or regulation.

(d) Nothing in this paragraph exempts State or local governments from maintaining records of Federal financial assistance or from providing access to such records to Federal agencies, as provided for in Federal law or in Circular A-102, "Uniform requirements for grants to State or local governments."

§ 12.15 Definitions.

For the purposes of this rule the following definitions from the Single Audit Act apply:

(a) *Cognizant agency* means the Federal agency assigned by the Office of Management and Budget to carry out the responsibilities described in § 12.21 of this rule.

(b) *Federal financial assistance* means assistance provided by a Federal agency in the form of grants, contracts, cooperative agreements, loans, loan guarantees, property, interest subsidies, in-

surance, or direct appropriations, but does not include direct Federal cash assistance to individuals. It includes awards received directly from Federal agencies, or indirectly through other units of State or local governments.

(c) *Federal agency* has the meaning as the term 'agency' in section 551 (1) of title 5, U.S. Code.

(d) *Generally accepted accounting principles* has the meaning specified in the generally accepted government auditing standards.

(e) *Generally accepted government auditing standards* means the *Standards for Audit of Government Organizations, Programs, Activities, and Functions*, developed by the Comptroller General, dated February 27, 1981.

(f) *Independent auditor* means:

(1) A State or local government auditor who meets the independence standards specified in generally accepted government auditing standards; or

(2) A public accountant who meets such independence standards.

(g) *Internal controls* means the plan of organization and methods and procedures adopted by management to ensure that:

(1) Resource use is consistent with laws, regulations, and policies;

(2) Resources are safeguarded against waste, loss, and misuse; and

(3) Reliable data are obtained, maintained, and fairly disclosed in reports.

(h) *Indian tribe* means any Indian tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community, including any Alaskan Native village or regional or village corporations (as defined in, or established under, the Alaskan Native Claims Act) that is recognized by the United States as eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians.

(i) *Local government* means any unit of local government within a State, including a county, a borough, municipality, a city, town, township, parish, local public authority, special district, school district, intrastate district, council of governments, and any other instrumentality of local government.

(j) *Major Federal assistance program*, as defined by Public Law 98-502, is described in the appendix to this rule.